



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Maryland Woman Pleads Guilty in Fatal Stabbing** **- Attacked Woman Last Summer in Parking Lot -**

WASHINGTON – Ramona Gray, 30, pled guilty today to a charge of second-degree murder stemming from the fatal stabbing in August 2010 of a woman in Southeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Gray, of District Heights, Md., entered the guilty plea in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The Honorable Judge Gerald I. Fisher scheduled sentencing for April 8, 2011. Gray faces a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison.

According to the government's factual proffer, on Tuesday, August 31, 2010, at approximately 5:25 p.m., Gray stabbed Shemese Grant, 31, of Washington, D.C., repeatedly with a knife in a parking lot in the 1700 block of Good Hope Road SE. The victim was pronounced dead within an hour. The autopsy revealed a total of 18 multiple sharp force injuries: eight stab wounds to the neck and torso, and ten incised wounds to the head, torso, and extremities.

The government's evidence showed that Gray attacked and stabbed Ms. Grant to death that day because she was upset that she was with a man with whom Gray once shared a romantic relationship. The killing came while Gray was on probation for an earlier crime.

In the earlier case, Gray had pled guilty to a charge of arson for setting fire in 2007 to the home of a family member of the same former lover. She was sentenced in July 2009 to a term of 18 months. All of the prison time was suspended and she was placed on probation.

According to the factual proffer, the trouble last August 31 began after Gray's phone was accidentally connected to her former lover's cellular telephone. Gray overheard a conversation he was having with Ms. Grant while they were riding together in a rental car. Over the phone, Gray confronted her former lover, and the call ended.

After this conversation, throughout the day, Gray called her former lover's cellular telephone and sent him phone text messages. Later in the day, she armed herself with a long knife and rode around in a car to find Ms. Grant. Not long before the fatal attack, Gray pulled into the parking lot of a convenience store in the 1700 block of Good Hope Road SE. There, she saw a car that she recognized as belonging to Ms. Grant. Gray then entered the convenience store and stood near the entrance, peering outward into the parking lot.

From inside the store, Gray saw the rental car pull up in the parking lot. Ms. Grant got out of the car, and when she turned her back to the store, Gray ran outside. She stabbed Ms. Grant repeatedly until she was physically separated by her former lover. Then she fled the scene.

In announcing today's plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding work of Metropolitan Police Department Violent Crime Branch Detectives Dwayne Corbett, Wayne Marable, and Darin March and Forensic Science Division Technician John Holder. He also commended the work of Paralegal Marian Russell, Victim Witness Specialist Marcia Rinker, and Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Gripkey, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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